

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 USBERL 01086 251500Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 MCT-01 DHA-02 IO-13 /029 W
-----251507Z 109189 /53

O R 251420Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4435
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
CINCUSARUER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USBERLIN 1086

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAAG-AP

E.L. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, WB
SUBJECT: TERRORIST SYMPATHIZERS OCCUPY CHURCH IN US SECTOR

1. FOLLOWING 0815 SUNDAY SERVICE AT EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN KREUZBERG(US SECTOR) 16 ANARCHIST/TERRORIST SYMPATHIZERS
POSING AS WORSHIPPERS, LATER JOINED BY 40-45 COMPATRIOTS,
OCCUPIED CHURCH PREMISES AND DEMANDED "DISCUSSION" WITH THE
PASTOR. PROTESTORS, WHO DESCRIBED THEMSELVES AS " THE COMMIT-
TEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE HUNGER STRIKE", ARE BELIEVED TO
BE MEMBERS OF, OR IN ALLIANCE WITH ANTIFA ORGANIZATION THAT
OCCUPIED CHURCH IN FRANKFURT FOR SEVERAL DAYS LAST WEEK.
THEY INFORMED PASTOR THAT OCCUPATION OF HIS CHURHC WAS IN-
TENDED TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR 80 TERRORIST PRISONERS NOW
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 USBERL 01086 251500Z

ON HUNGER STRIKE AT STAMMHEIM PRISON IN STUTTGART AND
THE OTHER PRISONS THROUGHOUT THE FRG AND IN BERLIN
PROTESTING INHUMANE CONDITIONS. PASTOR AGREED TO INITIAL
DEMAND OF DEMONSTRATORS THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO HOLD AN
EVENING PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CHURCH. POLICE WERE ON
THE SCENE QUICKLY, BUT UNDER GERMAN LAW COULD DO NOTHING
MORE THAN OBSERVE SITUATION FROM OUTSIDE, SINCE PASTOR

REFUSED TO FILE COMPLAINT WITH POLICE AGAINST PRESENCE OF DEMONSTRATORS ON CHURCH PROPERTY. UNOBTRUSIVELY, POLICE HAVE HAD ATTEMPTED TO PHOTOGRAPH INDIVIDUAL DEMONSTRATORS AS THEY LEFT CHURCH TO ESTABLISH IDENTITY.

2. AT 1730 DEMONSTRATORS BY THEN NUMBERING ABOUT 80, MET WITH REPORTER REPRESENTING TABLOID B.Z. AND POSSIBLY OTHER PRESS REPRESENTATIVES. COMMITTEE DISTRIBUTED TO PRESS A STATEMENT CATEGORICALLY REJECTING CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST TERRORISTS, DECLARING SOLIDARITY WITH PRISONERS' HUNGER STRIKE, AND CONDEMNING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH PRISONERS ARE HELD IN GERMAN JAILS. SPECIFICALLY, THEY DEMANDED THAT MEDIA PUBLISH DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT CONDITIONS AND PRESENT STATE OF HEALTH OF PRISONERS, AND THAT THE CHURCH AUTHORITIES EXERT PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SPEAK OUT ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. IN VIEW OF EXTREMIST TENDENCIES OF DEMONSTRATORS AND FACT THAT ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF DAILIES APPEAR IN BERLIN ON MONDAY, PRESS RESPONDED UNENTHUSIASTICALLY TO PROTESTORS' DEMAND TO BE HEARD. FOLLOWING PRESS CONFERENCE, LEADERSHIP OF EMMAUS CHURCH CONSISTING OF PASTOR AND CHURCH ELDERS, MET AGAIN WITH DEMONSTRATORS AND APPARENTLY RETRACTING AN EARLIER DECISION TO AUTHORIZE THE POLICE TO CLEAR THE CHURCH IF THE DEMONSTRATORS DID NOT LEAVE VOLUNTARILY, THEY AGREED TO FURTHER DEMAND THAT GROUP BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN AT LEAST UNTIL DAWN SO THEY COULD READ ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW GIVEN TO B.Z. CORRESPONDENT. DEMONSTRATORS OBVIOUSLY MUST HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 USBERL 01086 251500Z

DISAPPOINTED BY CRYPTIC COVERAGE DEVOTED TO CHURCH OCCUPANCY AND THEIR DEMANDS THAT APPEARED IN APRIL 25 B.Z. AND DIE WELT.

4. DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS MAJORITY OF GROUP LEFT CHURCH VOLUNTARILY, BUT 20 OR 30 PERSONS HAVE REMAINED IN THE CHURCH. AFTER SERVING GROUP BREAKFAST, PASTOR ATTEMPTED ONCE AGAIN UNSUCCESSFULLY, TO PERSUADE THEM TO VACATE THE CHURCH PREMISES. DEMONSTRATORS RESPONDED BY ANNOUNCING THEY WERE HOLDING SECOND PRESS CONFERENCE MONDAY PM, AFTER WHICH THEY WOULD "CONSIDER" LEAVING PASTOR ACQUIESCED IN THIS FURTHER DEMAND.

5. IN LIGHT OF CRITICISM DIRECTED AT MUNICIPAL AND CHURCH AUTHORITIES IN FRANKFURT FOR THEIR FAILURE TO ORDER POLICE TO EJECT DEMONSTRATORS THERE LAST WEEK, USCOB AND HIS STAFF CONSULTED AFTERNOON APRIL 24, ON ADVISABILITY OF RECOMMENDING TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF A U.S. SECTOR ORDINANCE PROHIBITING

THE FORCED OCCUPANCY OF THE EMMAUS CHURCH AND AUTHORIZING THE POLICE TO ARREST THE DEMONSTRATORS IF THEY FAILED TO LEAVE VOLUNTARILY. HOWEVER, SINCE CHURCH LEADERSHIP INFORMED POLICE SHORTLY THEREAFTER THAT THEY WERE NOT OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT OCCUPANCY OF THE CHURCH HOPING TO RESOLVE THE MATTER AMICABLY, AND SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT ANY OVERT POLICE PRESENCE NEAR THE CHURCH BE WITHDRAWN, WE DECIDED TO MONITOR SITUATION OVERNIGHT AND TO CONSULT IN MEANTIME WITH SENIOR BERLIN OFFICIALS.

6. IN LATE EVENING OF APRIL 24, POLAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SENATORS STOBBE AND NEUBAUER AND POLICE CHIEF HUEBNER. NEUBAUER THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR THE U.S. MISSION TO ORDER THE POLICE TO CLEAR THE BUILDING IN THE ABSENCE OF A CHURCH REQUEST THAT IT BE DONE. LEGALLY, THE SQUATTERS WOULD BE IN NO VIOLATION OF LAW, SO LONG AS THE CHURCH TOLERATED THEIR PRESENCE. ANY SUCH ALLIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 USBERL 01086 251500Z

ORDER WOULD THEREFORE BE CLEARLY IN EXCESS OF GERMAN LAW, AND PRESUMABLY WOULD BE CRITICIZED BY THE CHURCH AS INTERFERENCE IN ITS PREROGATIVES. (THE BRITISH AND FRENCH MISSIONS EXPRESSED THE SAME VIEW TO US.) (THE FRENCH WANTED ONLY TO CONTINUE TO OBSERVE THE PROBLEM).

7. GIVEN THE POLITICAL VIEWS OF THE SENAT AND THE ALLIES LEGAL SITUATION, AND THE FACT THAT THE SQUATTERS WERE CONFINING THEIR ACTIVITIES TO THE CHURCH, I.E. WERE NOT CREATING ANY OVERSPILL OF DISORDER OR NUISANCE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH PREMISES, GENERAL MCDONOUGH CONCLUDED THAT SO LONG AS THESE CIRCUMSTANCES CONTINUED, WE WOULD REFRAIN FROM ORDERING ANY SPECIAL POLICE ACTION.

8. COMMENT: SITUATION REMAINS FLUID GIVEN DEMONSTRATORS' STALLING TACTICS AND OBVIOUS RELUCTANCE OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP IN ORDER POLICE EVICTION OF SQUATTERS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE IS REAL POSSIBILITY THAT FORCED OCCUPANCY OF EMMAUS CHURCH BY TERRORIST SYMPATHIZERS COULD LAST SEVERAL DAYS.

9. USCOB CONCURS.
DAVIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, PLACES OF WORSHIP, TERRORISTS, PRISONERS, MEETINGS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL01086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770143-0804
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770421/aaaaarxo.tel
Line Count: 162
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ec1f969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2700463
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERRORIST SYMPATHIZERS OCCUPY CHURCH IN US SECTOR
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, WB
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ec1f969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009